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REMARKS

In the Office Action dated August 4, 2006, the Examiner indicated claims 17 – 23, 29 and 33 (and presumably claim 34) were allowed; claims 25, 26, 34 – 36 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and that claims 6 – 9, 15, 16, 28, 31, 32 and 37 were rejected.

With entry of the present amendment, claims 17 – 23, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31 – 36 and 38 – 44 are pending, and claims 1 – 16, 24, 27, 30 and 37 are cancelled. Claims 25, 26, 28, 31, 32, 35 and 36 have been amended. Claims 39-44 are new.

Claims 17 and 25 are independent claims. Claim 25 has been amended to incorporate the elements of cancelled claim 6. Dependency has been changed for claims 26, 28, 31, 32, 35 and 36 from claim 6 to independent claim 25. New claims 39-44 depend from claim 25 and correspond to cancelled claims 7, 8, 9, 15, 16 and 37. The claims are merely submitted as later numbered claims to provide antecedent basis.

Applicants believe the present amendment places all pending claims in condition for allowance. New matter has not been introduced by the amended or new claims.

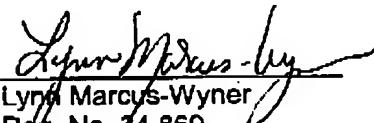
The Examiner has rejected claims 6 – 9, 15, 16, 28, 31, 32 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hurrell and Seaver taken together in view of Buckholz (4,904,490). While Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's reasoning for said rejection, in the interest of expediting prosecution of this application, Applicants have cancelled independent claim 6. The elements of claim 6 have been incorporated into claim 25. The Examiner has indicated that claim 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim. Therefore, Applicants submit the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is rendered moot.

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If in the opinion of the examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 846-7620.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lynn Marcus-Wyner
Reg. No. 24,869

Genencor International, Inc.
a Danisco Company
925 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1013
Tel: 650-846-7620
Fax: 650-845-6504